Kentucky Elder Readiness Initiative

A Survey of Commonwealth Residents
November 1, 2007

PRELIMINARY STATEWIDE REPORT









Kentucky Elder Readiness Initiative

The KERI Initiative

The Kentucky Elder Readiness Initiative (KERI) was announced by Governor Ernie Fletcher on August 15, 2005. The goal of KERI is to foster statewide awareness, dialogue and insight into the challenges and opportunities provided by the aging of the "Baby Boom" population (persons born between 1946 and 1964) and to stimulate local and statewide initiatives to appropriately address the pending changes that will result from this process. KERI is based on a positive philosophy of old age. Elders are viewed not as dependent but as a resource. Planning for our future involves all age groups and constituencies and the participation of elders in the process is essential. KERI is also concerned with regional differences. What is appropriate for Paducah may not apply to Louisville or reflect the needs and potential of Hazard or Somerset. Finally, KERI is part of a process of continuous planning; it is not a report to be placed on a shelf but rather a statewide movement to prepare for a better future. Participation of the media in this movement is vital.

Initial KERI activities involved assembling background information on Baby Boomers and elders in Kentucky. A series of fact sheets summarizing this information for each Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is available on our website:

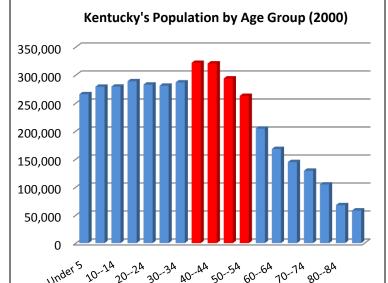
(http://www.mc.uky.edu/gerontology/keri.htm).

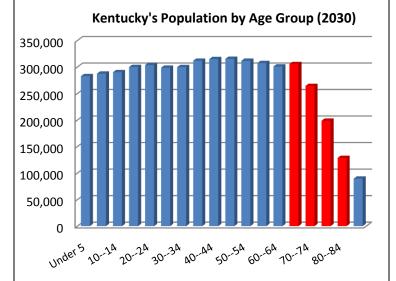
In the summer of 2006, two focus groups (one with community leaders and one with service providers) and a community forum were conducted in each of the 15 AAAs. Findings from the focus groups were incorporated into a statistically representative statewide survey sent to 9,600 Kentucky households in the summer of 2007. Preliminary descriptive findings from this survey for Kentucky are presented in this report. These preliminary data are intended to provoke discussion and elicit feedback that can be incorporated into a comprehensive final report which will include both additional comparative data and analysis and recommendations resulting from community forums and discussions for both the Commonwealth as a whole and each AAA region.

The KERI Survey

Information provided in this report was derived from a stratified sample of 9,600 households (640 randomly drawn in each Area Development District) conducted by the University of Kentucky Survey Research Center in June and July of 2007. Responses were received from 3,256 households representing a response rate of 33.9%. Data are presented by age group and distinguish between persons born prior to 1946 (62 years of age and older) and Baby Boomers (persons born between 1946 and 1964). The Baby Boom cohort is further broken down into a 1st Wave (born between1946-1955) and a 2nd Wave (born between1956-1964).

The margin-of-error for each ADD sample ranged from +/- 6.1% to +/- 7.8%. While not strictly a statewide random sample, the statewide data are weighted to reflect true population proportions of each ADD relative to the random sample drawn from each ADD, the margin-of-error on a random sample of this size (N=3,256) is +/- 1.7% at the 95% confidence level.





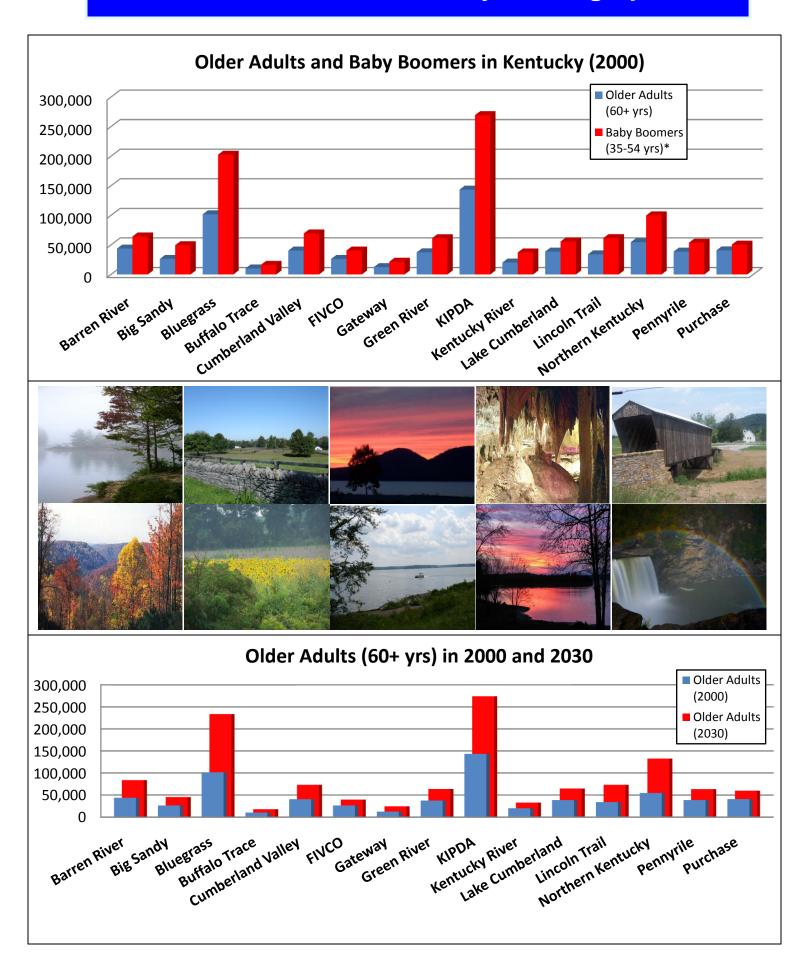
The Population

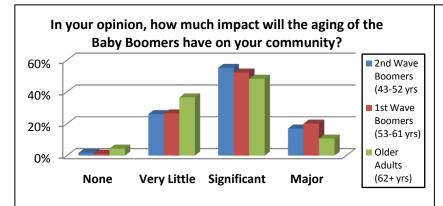
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the Commonwealth of Kentucky was home to 672,905 persons 60 and older, representing 16.6% of the population. It is anticipated that this population will increase to 1,287,999 persons 60 and older by 2030, representing 26.2% of the population, a 91.4% increase from 2000. A significant proportion of this increase can be attributed to the aging of the Baby Boom generation which in 2000 comprised 1,199,597 residents between the ages of 35 and 54 and represented 29.7% of the Commonwealth of Kentucky population.

"As a single child of soon to be retired parents, there are going to be unique challenges ahead to make certain their limited planning pays off. I believe this is an obscure issue which not many people at large, in position to effect change, are even considering at this point."

Bluegrass

Commonwealth of Kentucky--Demographics





My community is actively preparing for the aging of the **Baby Boomers** 2nd Wave 60% Boomers (43-52 yrs) 40% ■ 1st Wave Boomers 20% (53-61 yrs) Older 0% Adults (62+ yrs) Strongly Somewhat Somewhat Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Agree

Retirement

More than half of Kentucky's older adults (56.6%) and a slim majority of Baby Boomers (50.7%) consider that "retirement is a well-deserved reward for years of hard work." Approaching one-quarter of older adults (22.1%) and almost one—third of Baby Boomers (30.6%) "don't want to ever completely retire." Significantly, 17.0% of older adults and 11.0% of Baby Boomers consider that retirement is "something you are forced to do." Two-thirds of older adult (65.7%) and more than three-quarters of Baby Boomer respondents (77.6%) either "somewhat" or "strongly" agree that they "worry/worried a lot about being prepared for retirement".

The majority of respondents (56.0%) consider themselves "somewhat familiar" with elder services in their community. But one-third (33.3%) of the 2,844 persons who responded to this question consider themselves "not at all familiar" with services for elders in their community.

Awareness

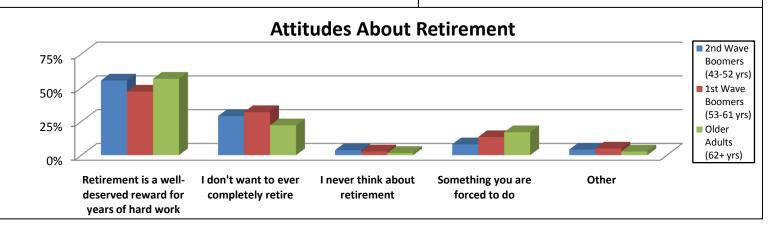
A major insight from the focus groups was a lack of awareness of issues related to the aging of the Baby Boom generation. Many participants had never thought about the issue and a number of Baby Boomers admitted to being in a "state of denial." The survey findings only partially support this view. When asked how often they think about the effects of the aging of Baby Boomers on themselves, more than half of Baby Boomers (56.1%) and 40.6% of older adults in the survey admitted to thinking about this issue "often" or in the next most frequent category.

Only 79 respondents (2.8% of the 2,799 persons who responded to this question) express the view that the aging of the Baby Boomers will have no effect on their community. In contrast, 72.2% of the Baby Boomers and more than one-half (59.0%) of the older adults consider that the aging of the Baby Boomers will have a **significant** or **major** impact.

While the data suggest growing awareness of what has been described as a pending "demographic tsunami," more than two-thirds of the Baby Boomers (69.3%) and 59.8% of the older adults surveyed either "somewhat" or "strongly" disagree with the statement that their community is "actively preparing for retirement and aging of the Baby Boomers." Only 55 respondents —20 Baby Boomers and 35 older adult— "strongly agree" with this statement. The implication is that Kentucky residents (2.0% of the 2,726 persons who responded to this question) would be supportive of additional initiatives aimed at addressing concerns and opportunities presented by the aging of the Baby Boomer generation.

Kentucky respondents consider that aging of the Baby Boom population will have a positive influence on employment, environmental design and aging services.

In contrast, they consider that aging of the Baby Boom generation will have a negative effect on many aspects of life in the Commonwealth including transportation, housing, funding for services, government policies, health care delivery, caregiving for elders and tax revenues.



Finances

Just over one-third of both Baby Boomers (34.5%) and older adults (34.3%) in the Kentucky state sample consider money provided by an employer like a pension or retirement account ("not one you paid into") will be a major source of income in their retirement. At the other extreme, a higher percentage of both Baby Boomers (38.7%) and older adults (36.5%) consider that this will not be a source of income at all.

Well over one-third of the Baby Boomers (36.3%) and one-quarter of current older adults (27.6%) responding to the survey consider that money placed into a retirement plan at work, such as a 401K plan will be a major source of income in their retirement plan. But 31.1% of the Baby Boomers and 45.5% of the current older adults surveyed do not view such funds as a source of retirement income.

Only 17.9% of Baby Boomers and 25.2% of current older adults responding to the survey consider that "other personal savings not in a work related retirement plan (e.g. IRA, savings account)" will be a major source of income in their retirement. A significant percentage of respondents (40.1% of Baby Boomers and 35.3% of older adults) consider that such personal savings will not be a source of income in their retirement.

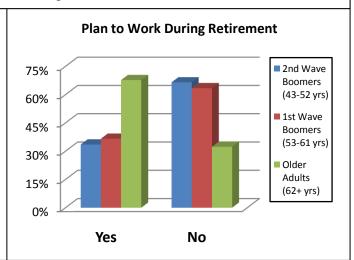
Approximately one-half of Baby Boomer (46.6%) and two-thirds of current older adult respondents (66.8%) consider that Social Security is or will be a major source of income in their retirement. Most of the remainder (45.0% of Baby Boomers and 29.2% of older adults), consider that Social Security will be a minor source of income. Only 174 of the 2,727 respondents to this question (6.4%) consider that Social Security will not be a source of their retirement income. These findings suggest a continuing high level of reliance on the Social Security system among Kentucky residents.

"I think we are going to have to redefine the word 'need.' We're going to have to get out of this "just because it has been there the last twenty years" and say "Wait!" Because one thing that I believe is that we haven't kept up. As we see a healthier population, we haven't changed a lot of the criteria for who gets what. We're kind of stuck with a 1970s, 1980s kinda thing. And I blame that on the policy makers and those who implement the services because we have had the opportunity to change this and we haven't." KIPDA

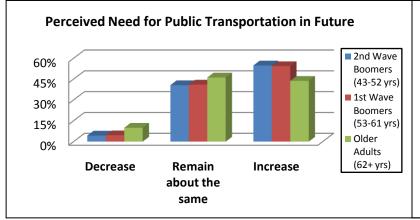
Employment

Nearly one-third (31.8%) of the current older adults who responded to the survey continue to work either full or part time but more than two-thirds (67.7%) plan to do so during their retirement. In contrast, only 35.3% of the Baby Boomers surveyed plan to work during retirement.

Of those who plan to work during retirement, 42.3% of older adults and 44.1% of the Baby Boomers who responded indicated that the major reason for this decision will be to earn "money to make ends meet." "Want to keep working" was cited as a major reason by 44.6% of the older adults and 36.0% of the Baby Boomers who plan to work during retirement. The need "to keep health insurance or other benefits" was reported as a major reason for working post retirement by 36.4% of older adults and 48.0% of Baby Boomers.



"It's interesting. I heard a Baby Boomer interviewed on the radio, and they said, "OK. How are you preparing for retirement? And he said, "I'm hoping to hit the lottery." Now that may be funny, but it might be insight [in]to the Baby Boomers preparing for retirement. Baby boomers lived in a society where you get it when you want it, and they might not have saved to take care of themselves, so I think there is going to be a drain on the health system and social services." Northern Kentucky



Transportation

A significant proportion of both the Baby Boomers (41.8%) and older adults (47.8%) surveyed responded that their community does not have public transportation. At the same time, 54.6% of the Baby Boomers and 43.8% of the older adults surveyed consider that their public transportation needs will increase as they age. Providing and paying for such transportation, especially in Kentucky's many rural counties, in the context of rising transportation costs is already a significant challenge. Meeting this challenge is likely to become even more difficult in the future.

Housing

Most respondents expect to remain in their present residence as they age. When asked where they see themselves living at age 75, three-quarters of the Baby Boomers surveyed (76.6%) and an even higher percentage of current older adults (86.4%) expect to be living in their personal residence. When asked the same question but for when they are 90 years of age, the percentages drop to 28.8% for Baby Boomers and 37.4% for current older adults.

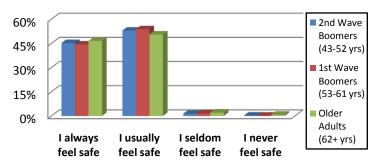
Living in a relative's residence has historically been considered an option for elders as they grow frail but Kentucky residents support current literature suggesting this is considered a last resort. Only 65 (2.4%) of the 2,698 persons answering this question, expect to be living with a relative at 75. This percentage rises to 7.9% when they are 90+ with only 128 Baby Boomers (9.1%) and 68 current older adults (6.3%) anticipating living in a relative's residence.

Living in an independent senior living community at 75 is anticipated by10.6% of Baby Boomers, a percentage that does not change significantly at 90+ (10.0%).

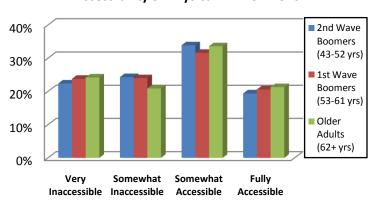
Approximately one-quarter of Baby Boomers (23.1%) and 20.9% of older adults expect to be living in an assisted living facility when they are 90+. This finding clearly indicates significantly increased demand for affordable variations of this increasingly popular option.

A surprisingly high percentage of Baby Boomers (22.4%) and older adults (20.8%) expect to be living in a nursing home when they are 90+. This high percentage is contrary to the current national trend toward a lower percentage of elders residing in nursing facilities.

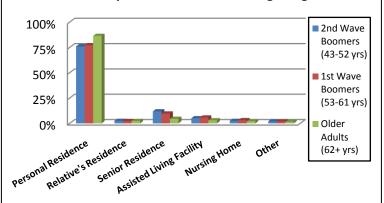
Perceived Feeling of Safety in Community



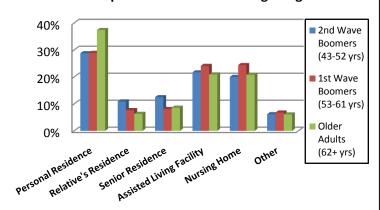
Accessibility of Physical Environment



Where People See Themselves Living at Age 75



Where People See Themselves Living at Age 90+

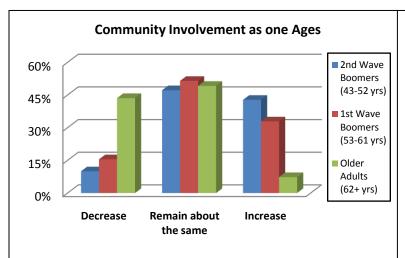


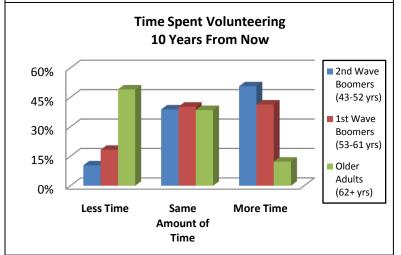
"The assisted living complex in our town is full. The nursing homes usually have a waiting list...We need to act soon to prepare for the Baby Boomer generation of aging. There won't be enough resources available if we do not." Big Sandy

Health and Safety

Overwhelmingly, Kentucky respondents feel safe in their communities. Older adults (97.2%) either "always feel safe" (46.6%) or "usually feel safe" (50.6%) in their communities. Baby Boomers (98.2%) universally agreed; 44.8% "always feel safe" and 53.4% "usually feel safe." Only 11 current older adults (0.8%) and only four Baby Boomers (0.3%) report that they "never feel safe."

A major concern identified in the focus groups was the degree to which the physical environment is accessible to both current older adults and Baby Boomers. More than one-half of older adults (54.9%) consider the physical environment (sidewalks, steps, or lighting) in their neighborhood to be either "somewhat" or "fully accessible." A slightly lower percentage of Baby Boomers (52.7%) hold this opinion. It is important to acknowledge that 24.2% of older adults and 23.2% of Baby Boomers consider their physical environment to be "very inaccessible." This difference likely reflects major local variation in the quality of the micro physical environment and suggests the need for identification and focused attention on the quality of specific local and micro-environments that elders are particularly likely to frequent.





Life Quality

Kentucky respondents rate their current quality of life positively. Given choices of "poor", "fair", "good", "very good", and "excellent," Only 57 respondents in the entire sample, 29 older adults and 28 Baby Boomers (1.9% of the 2,944 people who answered this question) rate their current quality of life as "poor." In contrast, 14.1% of older adults and 15.3% of Baby Boomers rate their quality of life as "excellent." Over two-thirds of current older adults (69.8%) and 72.5% of Baby Boomers rate their quality of life as either "good" or "very good."

When asked to project their quality of life over the next ten years, two-thirds of the respondents (66.6%) consider that it will "remain about the same." Older adults are more pessimistic than Boomers. Older adults (32.1%) are more likely than Baby Boomers (16.7%) to consider that their quality of life will "get worse" over the next 10 years. Only 46 older adults (3.3%) and 227 Baby Boomers (15.0%) anticipate that their quality of life will "improve" over this period.

(Cont'd on next page)

Community Involvement

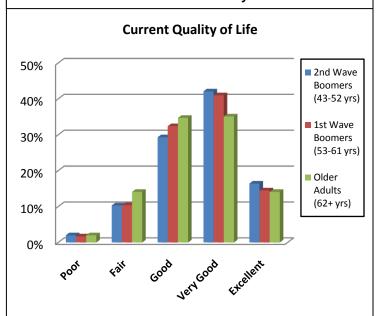
Kentucky residents were surveyed as to their anticipated future community involvement and propensity to engage in volunteer activities. Almost one-half of the 2,886 persons who responded to the question (49.4%) consider that their level of involvement in community activities will "remain about the same." Interestingly, 32.9% of 1st Wave Baby Boomers but 42.8% of 2nd Wave Baby Boomers anticipate "increased involvement" in community activities as they grow older. Only 7.3% of the older adults express this opinion.

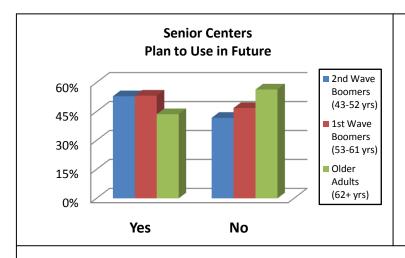
When asked about the amount of time they plan to spend volunteering ten years from now, older adults (49.1), perhaps anticipating declining health and reduced ability are more than three times as likely as Baby Boomers (14.8%) to respond that they will spend "less time" volunteering than they do currently.

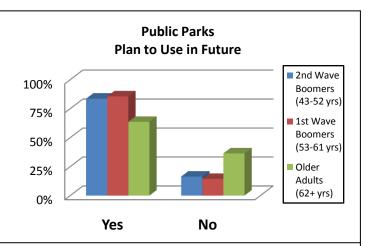
In contrast, reinforcing the findings with regard to anticipated involvement in community activities, 45.5% of the Baby Boomers in the survey sample indicate that they will spend "more time" volunteering ten years from now, compared to only 12.3% of current older adults. Once again, 2nd Wave Baby Boomers (50.7%) are more likely than 1st Wave Baby Boomers (41.4%) to report that they expect to have increased their level of volunteering in ten years.

These findings suggest that the Baby Boom generation, particularly the 2nd Wave Baby Boomers, may be more actively involved in both volunteer and community activities than their predecessors and represent a potential resource for the future of the Commonwealth.

"There are going to be a lot more active seniors than now. When setting up programs we need more programs for active seniors than we do for disabled seniors." **Pennyrile**







"As a 36 year old, I think the aging and retirement of the Baby Boomers will have a large impact on Kentucky's government and services. I do not think the state and nation is prepared to deal with it. I'm afraid that my generation and those younger than me will bear the financial burden of this problem." **Barren River**

Life Quality Cont'd

A series of questions focused on 14 separate indicators of quality of life ranging from the availability of venues for the arts and lifelong learning opportunities to restaurants, shopping centers and grocery stores.

Many of those surveyed (28.2% of older adults and 35.2% of Baby Boomers) have taken advantage of lifelong learning opportunities (e.g. computer, art, accounting classes, etc.) in the past twelve months. A much higher percentage, 38.6% of older adults and 57.2% of Baby Boomers, plan to do so in the future. As the Baby Boomers grow older, there will be increased demand on educational resources.

There is general consensus that many volunteer opportunities (service in hospitals, food pantries etc.) are currently available in Kentucky. Both Baby Boomers (87.4%) and the current generation of older adults (86.2%) share this view. While in the past twelve months 31.7% of the Baby Boomers have participated in such opportunities to enhance their quality of life, 57.8% plan to do so in the future. About the same percentage of older adults (31.6%) has participated in volunteer opportunities during the past 12 months but 37.6% identify this as a future aspiration.

There is widespread acknowledgement that support groups (e.g. caregiver, A.A.) are available throughout Kentucky with 84.3% of Baby Boomers and 83.5% of older adults reporting such knowledge. Few of the Baby Boomer respondents (10.5%) have used support groups in the past 12 months but a much higher percentage of those surveyed (26.5%) anticipate using such resources in the future. One hundred and eighteen of the current older adults responding to the survey (16.7%) have used a support group in the past 12 months but 20.8% see such a need in their future.

Three-guarters of the Baby Boomers responding to the survey (75.6%) have used public parks in their community during the past 12 months. A lower percentage of current older adults (60.8%) report such usage. It is important to note that a higher percentage of both groups (84.6% of Baby Boomers and 63.6% of current older adults) plan to use this resource in the future, reinforcing the need to focus on ensuring that public parks are elder accessible.

More than one-quarter (27.0%) of current older adults and 11.0% of the Baby Boomers responding to the survey have used a Senior Center in the past 12 months. When future plans are considered, 43.6% of older adults and 53.1% of the Baby Boomers surveyed, plan to use Senior Centers. This finding suggests that, if Senior Centers are to be considered the community-based hub of the elder services delivery system in the future, there is a need to redefine their focus in a manner attuned to ways in which the needs of Baby Boomers differ from the current generation of older adults. When asked which one of the 14 life quality resources they consider most

A.J. Watts Senior Center, Hopkinsville

important, 42.9% of the Baby Boomers and 48.8% of older adult respondents rate "churches, spiritual groups and other religious organizations" as the most important, far outdistancing large grocery stores (11.2% of Baby Boomers and 13.5% of older adults) and shopping centers (8.9% of Baby Boomers and 9.6% of older adults). The extreme importance placed on the church and faith organizations as determinants of quality of life reinforces findings from the focus groups which also revealed the potential of this constituency as a resource for addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by an aging population. Other resources considered "most important for quality of life" by Baby Boomers are recreation facilities (gyms and walking paths etc. (6.6%), and restaurants (6.6%). Other resources considered most important to quality of life among older adults are restaurants (5.0%) and recreation facilities (gyms and walking paths etc. 4.8%).

Future Directions

One outcome from the 30 focus groups conducted around the state in 2006 was a series of suggestions for future directions that the Commonwealth and individual communities might take in addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by aging of the Baby Boomers. Respondents were asked to assess 15 of these potential directions in terms of whether they considered them to be "very important," "somewhat important" or "not important." Table 1 summarizes the findings, distinguishing between the responses of Baby Boomers and older adults. For clarity of presentation, the category "somewhat important" has been omitted.

Table 1 Future Directions	Baby Boomers		Older Adults	
	Very Important	Not Important	Very Important	Not Important
Increase employment options for elders	53.3%	2.6%	45.2%	6.6%
Develop adult daycare programs at places of work	32.0%	17.6%	28.0%	19.6%
Place emphasis on developing residential options for elders	62.0%	1.6%	50.7%	4.5%
Increase educational opportunities for elders	35.9%	10.5%	29.8%	13.7%
Provide training and support options for new caregivers	62.7%	2.3%	59.6%	5.1%
Redefine the role of senior centers in order to address the different needs of Baby Boomers as they age	50.8%	4.3%	42.8%	8.8%
Place major emphasis on developing business and second career options for elders	43.5%	8.1%	33.7%	12.4%
Emphasize single point of entry (one place to call) for services or information	61.9%	4.5%	62.0%	6.3%
Introduce local or state taxes to support programs for elders	41.8%	15.7%	34.8%	20.2%
Provide programs for long-term support for persons with disabilities being cared for by an aging parent	66.2%	2.4%	71.1%	3.5%
Develop programs for elders to provide mentorship or guidance to youth	39.9%	7.4%	35.3%	10.1%
Rediscover the sense of community and community support that was a traditional component of Kentucky life in the past	47.0%	6.7%	45.9%	8.8%
Develop more volunteer opportunities for elders	35.7%	9.2%	31.7%	11.5%
Place Increased reliance on churches and religious institutions for the support of frail elders	30.8%	17.7%	39.8%	14.7%
Develop programs to provide support for grandparents raising grandchildren	57.8%	5.4%	58.2%	5.8%

Perhaps reflecting concern about their own financial future, 53.3% of Baby Boomers and 45.2% of older adults consider **increasing employment options** for elders to be "very important." An additional 44.1% of Baby Boomers and 48.2% of older adults consider this to be "somewhat important." Only 126 of the 2,835 persons who answered this question, 87 older adults (6.6%) and 39 Baby Boomers (2.6%) rate this option as "not important."

Both Baby Boomers and current older adults are less enthusiastic about the strategy of developing **adult day care programs at places of work**. Only 32.0% of the Baby Boomer respondents and 28.0% of current older adults consider this a "very important" priority. This option is considered "somewhat important" by 50.4% of the Baby Boomers and 52.4% of current older adults. It should be noted that 17.6% of Baby Boomers and 19.6% of current older adults consider that this strategy is "not important."

Baby Boomers strongly favor placing **emphasis on developing residential options for elders** with 62.0% responding that this is "very important" and an additional 36.5% rating this option as "somewhat important." Only 24 Baby Boomers (1.6%) consider this strategy "not important." This perspective is shared by a small majority of older adults with 50.7% viewing it as "very important" and a further 44.8% suggesting it is "somewhat important." Only 82 respondents (Cont'd on next page)

Future Directions (cont'd)

(2.9%) consider this strategy to be "not important."

A majority of respondents (55.0%) consider that **increasing educational opportunities for elders** is "somewhat important" with Baby Boomers (35.9%) more likely than older adults (29.8%) to rate this option "very important."

When asked about the importance of providing **training and support options for new caregivers**, nearly two-thirds of Baby Boomers (62.7%) and more than one—half of current older adults (59.6%) rate this strategy as "very important." Only 100 people among the 2,795 persons responding to this question (3.6%) consider that placing a priority on such training is "not important."

Many respondents consider that **redefining the role of senior centers** is either "very important" (45.1%) or "somewhat important" (46.5%) Baby Boomers (50.8%) are more likely than current older adults (42.8%) to consider this direction to be "very important." These findings support an emerging consensus that there is a need to redefine the role of senior centers for the Baby Boom generation by providing resources such as gyms, modern cafes and computer use areas. Only 178 of the 2,795 persons who responded to this question (6.4%) consider this "not important" as a priority.

Baby Boomers (43.5%) are more likely than older adults (33.7%) to respond that placing major emphasis on developing **business and second career options for elders** is "very important." An additional 48.3% of Baby Boomers and 53.9% of older adults indicate that this is "somewhat important."

When asked about the importance of emphasizing a single **point of entry (one place to call) for services or information,** 61.9% of Baby Boomers and 62.0% of older adults indicate that they consider this "very important." Few respondents, 68 Baby Boomers (4.5%) and 81 older adults, (6.3%) among the 2,802 persons who responded to this question consider this option, currently being pursued as a high priority in the Commonwealth, to be "not important."

There is a surprising level of support among both Baby Boomers and older adults for **introducing local or state taxes to support programs for elders**. Indeed, 82.2% of the respondents agree that introducing local or state taxes to support programs for elders is either "somewhat important" (43.6%) or "very important" (38.6%). Baby Boomers (41.8%) are more likely than current older adults (34.8%) to rate this option as "very important." This may reflect a growing realization of the need to find additional sources of funding to support needed programs for elders as their frailty increases.

Over one-half of the 1,510 Baby Boomers (52.6%) and 54.6% of the 1,279 current older adults responding to the question consider it "somewhat important" to develop **programs for elders to provide mentorship or guidance to youth.** Baby Boomers (39.9%) are more likely to rate this option as "very important" than are current older adults (35.3%).

An unexpected finding from the focus groups was the view expressed by many participants that it was important to rediscover a sense of community and community support that was a traditional component of Kentucky life in the past. Both Baby Boomers and older adults endorse this need. All but 101 of the Baby Boomers (6.7%) consider this to be "very important" (47.0%) or "somewhat important" (46.3%). One hundred and thirteen current older adults (8.8%) consider the rediscovery of community to be "not important," 580 "somewhat important" (45.2%) and 589 (45.9%) rate this as "very important."

The majority of both Baby Boomers (55.0%) and older adults (56.8%) consider developing more **volunteer opportunities for elders** to be "somewhat important." One-third (33.9%) of the 2,817 people who answered this question (35.7% of the Baby Boomers and 31.7% of the older adults), rate this as a "very important" priority.

Churches, spiritual groups and other religious organizations were considered to be by far the most important of the various contributors to quality of life considered earlier in this report. But there seems to be somewhat less enthusiasm for placing 'increased reliance on churches and religious institutions for the support of frail elders.' A noteworthy percentage (16.3%) of the 2,802 persons who responded to this question, consider this direction "not important." While the largest proportion of respondents (48.7%) consider this to be a "somewhat important" future direction, fewer Baby Boomers (30.8%) and current older adults (39.8%) consider this a "very important" option.

More than 30,000 older Kentuckians are raising approximately 70,000 of their grandchildren. Reinforcing a major current concern in the Commonwealth with developing support for these individuals, 57.8% of Baby Boomers and 58.2% of older adults view it as "very important" to develop **programs to support grandparents raising grandchildren**.

There is also widespread concern among both older adults and Baby Boomers with providing programs for **long-term support for persons with disabilities being cared for by an aging parent**, a current area of focus among policy makers and service professionals in Kentucky. More than two-thirds of both older adults (71.1%) and Baby Boomers (66.2%) consider this to be "very important." Only 82 (2.9%) of the 2,824 people who responded to this question consider that this is "not important" as a future direction.

"It is unreasonable to expect people in their mid-sixties and beyond to maintain a home, care for others and continue to work at a job as well. There are not enough hours in the day. There is no time for adequate rest or any kind of leisure activities. Retirement for many of us is all work and no play."

Kentucky River

Future Directions Cont'd

Survey respondents were asked to identify which of the potential future directions they consider "the most important" option in preparing for the Baby Boom population. Responses are summarized in Table 2. Baby Boomers identify the need to "increase employment options for elders" (15.2%), "major emphasis on developing residential options for elders" (14.2%), and "long-term support for persons with disabilities being cared for by an aging parent" (11.3%), and "emphasizing single point of entry (one place to call) for services or information" (9.4%) as the top priorities. For older adults, "long-term support for persons with disabilities being cared for by an aging parent" (18.5%) was by far the top priority. Other options rated as "most important" by older adults were "major emphasis on developing residential options for elders" (11.8%), "increasing employment options for elders" (9.9%), the need to "rediscover the sense of community and community support that was a traditional component of Kentucky life in the past" (9.2%), and emphasizing "single point of entry (one place to call) for services or information" (9.0%).

Table 2 Most Important Future Directions	Baby Boomers		Older Adults	
	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent
Increase employment options for elders	1	15.2	3	9.9
Place major emphasis on developing residential options for elders	2	14.2	2	11.8
Long-term support for persons with disabilities being cared for by an aging parent	3	11.3	1	18.5
Emphasize single point of entry (one place to call) for services or information	4	9.4	5	9.0
Support for grandparents raising grandchildren	5	9.0	6	7.7
Introduce local or state taxes to support programs for elders	6	7.8	9	5.2
Rediscover the sense of community and community support that was a traditional component of Kentucky Life in the past	7	7.3	4	9.2
Place major emphasis on developing business and second career opportunities for elders	8	6.2	11	5.0
Provide training and support options for new caregivers	9	5.5	8	5.7
Redefine the role of senior centers in order to address the different needs of Baby Boomers as they age	10	5.2	9	5.2
Place increased reliance on churches and religious institutions for the support of frail elders	11	2.8	7	5.8
Develop adult daycare programs at places of work	12	2.0	14	1.5
Increase educational opportunities for elders	13	1.9	13	2.0
Develop programs for elders to provide mentorship or guidance to youth	14	1.8	12	2.6
Develop more volunteer opportunities for elders	15	0.4	15	1.0
M	ore than 50% of	first choices a	hove this line	

More than 50% of first choices above this line

When findings for both Baby Boomers and older adults are aggregated for the 2,540 respondents who chose a "most important" direction for Kentucky to pursue in addressing the challenges and opportunities provided by the retirement and aging of the Baby Boomers, a very clear picture of the preferences of Kentucky households emerges. Two-thirds of the respondents (66.2%) favor six priorities: "long-term support for persons with disabilities being cared for by an aging parent" (14.6%); "emphasis on developing residential options for elders" (13.1%); "increase employment options for elders" (12.8%); "emphasize single point of entry (one place to call) for services or information" (9.2%); "develop programs to provide support for grandparents raising grandchildren" (8.4%); and "rediscover the sense of community and community support that was a traditional component of Kentucky life in the past" (8.1%).

This document was prepared by the Graduate Center for Gerontology, University of Kentucky, on October 30, 2007.